

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1–22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising in its bottom zone comprising a bead-zone, an elastomeric internal filler mix in the form of a profiled member which is located axially to the outside of the upturn of the carcass reinforcement, or a reinforcement profile for the beads of the tire which is located radially above the bead wire and adjacent to said bead wire, said elastomeric internal filler mix comprising a cohesive and low-hysteretic rubber composition comprising an elastomeric matrix and a reinforcing filler,

(i) wherein the elastomeric matrix comprises more than 70 phr of natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene having double bonds, the majority of which are cis-1,4 bonds, and

(ii) wherein the reinforcing filler is a blend of carbon black having a BET specific surface area of between 30 and 160 m²/g and of precipitated or pyrogenic silica having a specific surface area of between 30 and 260 m²/g,

wherein the amount of silica is greater than or equal to the amount of carbon black in phr minus 5 phr, and

wherein said blend of carbon black and silica is in an amount between 15 phr and 50 phr, and wherein the amount of silica is from 25 phr to 40 phr.

24. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 23, wherein the carbon black has a BET specific surface area of between 90 and 150 m²/g.

25. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 23 or 24, wherein the composition further comprises an additional diene elastomer, wherein the natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene comprises the majority of elastomer in the composition.

26. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 25, wherein the additional diene elastomer is selected from the group consisting of a polybutadiene having double bonds, the majority of which are cis-1,4 bonds, a butadiene/styrene emulsion or solution copolymer having double bonds, the majority of which are trans-1,4 bonds, a butadiene/isoprene copolymer, and a styrene/butadiene/isoprene terpolymer.

27. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 26, wherein the diene elastomer has active groups on the elastomer chain or at the end of the elastomer chain, said active groups being active with carbon black or with white fillers, or is starved by a carbonyl, silicon or tin halide.

28. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 26 or 27, wherein the diene elastomer has been modified on the chain or at the end of the chain by a branching agent comprising divinylbenzene.

29. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising in its bottom zone comprising a bead zone, an elastomeric internal filler mix in the form of a profiled member

which is located axially to the outside of the upturn of the carcass reinforcement, or a reinforcement profile for the beads of the tire which is located radially above the bead wire and adjacent to said bead wire, said elastomeric internal filler mix comprising a cohesive and low-hysteretic rubber composition comprising an elastomeric matrix and a reinforcing filler,

wherein the elastomeric matrix comprises more than 70 phr of natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene having double bonds, the majority of which are cis-1,4 bonds, and

wherein the reinforcing filler is precipitated or pyrogenic silica having a specific surface area of between 30 and 260 m²/g,

wherein said silica is present in an amount of between 15 phr and 40 phr.

30. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 29, wherein said silica is present in an amount of 20 to 35 phr.

31. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 29 or 30, wherein the composition further comprises an additional diene elastomer, wherein the natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene comprises the majority of elastomer in the composition.

32. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the additional diene elastomer is selected from the group consisting of a polybutadiene having double bonds, the majority of which are cis-1,4 bonds, a butadiene/styrene emulsion or solution copolymer having double bonds, the majority of which are trans-1,4 bonds, a butadiene/isoprene copolymer, and a styrene/butadiene/isoprene terpolymer.

33. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 32, wherein the diene elastomer has active groups on the elastomer chain or at the end of the elastomer chain, said active groups being active with carbon black or with white fillers, or is starred by a carbonyl, silicon or tin halide.

34. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 32, wherein the diene elastomer has been modified on the chain or at the end of the chain by a branching agent comprising divinylbenzene.

35. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 23, wherein the blend of carbon black and silica is present in an amount between 20 and 45 phr.

36. (Currently Amended) The tire of Claim 23, wherein said silica is present in an amount greater than 25 phr and less than or equal to 35 phr.

37. (Currently Amended) The tire of Claim 23 or Claim 29, wherein the elastomeric matrix further comprises a coupling agent and/or a covering agent.

38. (Currently Amended) The tire of Claim 23 or Claim 29, wherein the elastomeric matrix further comprises a covering agent selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohols, alkylalkoxy silanes, diphenylguanidines, polyethylene glycol ~~or~~ and silicone oils.

39. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 37, wherein the amount of said coupling and/or covering agent is in a weight ratio relative to the silica between 1/100 and 20/100.

40. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 37, wherein the amount of said coupling agent and/or covering agent is in a weight ratio relative to the silica between 2/100 and 15/100.

41. (Currently Amended) The tire of claim 23, wherein said silica is present in an amount of between 30 and 40 phr.

42. (Currently Amended) The tire of claim 29, wherein said silica is present in an amount of between 30 and 40 phr.